

body snugly engaging the adjacent, mating concave surfaces of the concaval-convex elements.

4. (Amended) The vertebral disc endoprosthesis according to <sup>claim</sup> Claim 3 wherein the gasket is stiffer than the resilient [nucleus] nuclear body.

5. (Amended) A vertebral disc endoprosthesis comprising relatively rigid superior and inferior concaval-convex elements, each element having an outer surface of predetermined convexity and unreticulated surface

roughness for engaging adjacent bone structure which has been milled to mate with said outer convex surface for encouraging bone ingrowth into the

mating outer convex surface, each concaval-convex element also having [an] continuous, a smooth non-porous inner concave surface disposed to confront the

opposed concaval-convex element smooth convex surface; the

endoprosthesis also comprising a solid but relatively resilient convex nuclear body located between the confronting concave surfaces of the adjacent

concaval-convex elements, the nuclear body engaging but being separate from the adjacent concave surfaces to permit sliding arcuate movement of

concave the concaval surfaces over the resilient nuclear body.

Please add new claim 7:

6. The vertebral disc endoprosthesis according to claim 6 wherein the resilient convex nuclear body is shaped and sized, relative to the concave surfaces of the concaval-convex elements, so as to be inhibited from expulsion from the endoprosthesis.